

our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Fall 1994



Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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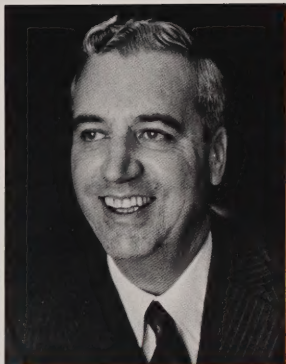
Golden Rules — "Jude," a six-year-old golden retriever from North Falmouth, won two blue ribbons and the Best Pet in Show trophy at the League's annual pet show (see story on p. 10).

Photo by Bob Howard.

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Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A League Tradition

Once again, the League prepares for its Annual Fair to be held this year on October 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at League Headquarters. We are deeply indebted to a relatively small group of loyal, devoted, hardworking people who put forth a great effort every year to make it such a fine success!

Some folks may not realize how long a history the Fair enjoys. I recently read some old issues of *Our Fourfooted Friends* and found a number of interesting articles about the Annual Fair in years gone by. Some things have a striking difference, but in many cases there were similar circumstances to today.

All of the early articles are written by that wonderful lady who founded the League in 1899, Anna Harris Smith. Mrs. Smith notes that the first Fair was held in 1902 and "was a grand affair." In an article written in June, 1902, Mrs. Smith says, "We are getting encouraging letters in regard to our proposed Fair in the fall. One friend has just given us a large trunk . . . to be stored at the League and filled with articles as they are sent in." She further notes that League staff are available to "collect such fine items as our loyal friends may desire to donate."

By 1924, the Fair was held for two days at the Copley Plaza Hotel. The various booths included the Directors' Table, Household Table, Pine Ridge Table, Baby Table, Children's Table, Arlington Food Table, Girl Scout Cookie Table, Noah's Ark Grab Bag, and many more.

There was also a League Sewing Circle who met from time to time to make aprons, dusters, pot holders, pin cushions, and catnip bags. Again, there are similar items and some very different ones.

A message written by Anna Harris Smith in 1902, called "The Lights and Shadows of Humane Work," intended to point up the need for the League's services and hence the need to support the Fair. It says in part, "In giving the common experiences of humane work as we live them and hear them from week to week, the pathetic undoubtedly predominate. The lives of our fourfooted friends are more apt to be tragic than even of commonplace significance. The world has not yet begun to realize this; it is only growing to the knowledge slowly, and those who possess it are overweighted with the burden of what they know.

"It is only because of those who see and hear, even though it saddens their life, that wrongs are righted, justice done, the weak uplifted and cared for, the miserable and the suffering made more comfortable.

"Therefore we have no right to shut our eyes or our ears to those evils that exist and need to be put down. Most truly has Ruskin said: 'He who is not actively kind is cruel.'"

Thus with all the changes and complications of the world over the past 92 years, some of the fundamental issues remain remarkably the same and a longstanding tradition marches on.



Deer Crossing

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland

They trample vegetable gardens, devastate carefully groomed flower beds, and cause serious, sometimes fatal to humans, motor vehicle collisions. They also fill nature lovers with wonder during chance meetings. They are the subject of intense debate in town meetings across the country. They were also the topic of discussion at a recent seminar hosted by the Center for Animals & Public Policy (CfA&PP) at the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. "They" are white-tailed deer.

The purpose of the seminar was to bring together a diverse group of individuals who are concerned or involved with wildlife issues to exchange ideas on deer management. The speakers ranged from professors to authors to wildlife biologists. The presentations carried such provocative titles as "Bambi and American Attitudes toward Wildlife and Wildlife Use" (Ralph Lutts, author of *The Nature Fakers*). The attendees represented humane organizations from many different states, various state fish and wildlife departments, animal rights groups, and individuals who were struggling with deer management dilemmas at home. Although every person attending brought to the table individual values regarding deer, as a group they all hoped to discover a humane solution to deer population control.

The easy choice to make is to leave deer alone; however, that is not a solution to the problems facing deer and the public in today's world. Deer management programs are demanded by residents who are experiencing health and safety threats when the number of deer/car

collisions increase or Lyme disease is detected. According to Jay McAninch, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, "Vegetation and property damage is the second most serious activity of deer after safety that generates an influx of demands for control." Deer can and do devastate farm crops which then threatens the livelihood of that farmer and family. It is people that demand these deer management programs and it is deer that suffer if help is not provided and property owners are forced to take matters into their own hands.

Several types of management programs were presented at the seminar: increasing hunting quotas, instituting "controlled hunts" which are supervised and operate under strict quotas to maintain the ideal population for that habitat, population control by remotely delivered contraception (see Spring 1994 *O.F.F.*), trap and kill, trap and transfer. Each program choice varies in cost and effectiveness, and not all programs can be applied to any indi-

vidual deer problem. For instance, the contraception program is only effective in contained populations such as on an island or in a fenced habitat. Jay McAninch explains, "The trap and transfer method is expensive, traumatizes the deer, splits social groups, and exposes the town participating to liability risks because they are introducing problem animals to another district." Controlled hunts on previously protected lands are very controversial and will most certainly generate much heated debate and protest from individuals and organizations.

Rob Deblinger, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW), presented an update on the Crane's Beach deer management program. Crane's Beach in Ipswich, Mass., is owned and operated by a nonprofit organization which was faced with choosing a means of controlling a deer population that was increasing to the point that vegetation, human health, and deer survival were seriously jeopardized. In 1985, the deer population



on the Crane reservation was estimated to be between 180 and 250 with the optimum population for the habitat being 45 to 50 deer. The deer were reported to be starving and infested with ticks, problems which were determined to be contributing to the higher mortality rates during the lean winter months. Ultimately, after public outcry and protests voiced by humane organizations, the owners of the property decided to hold a controlled public hunt. The controlled hunt has been conducted each year since 1985 and the deer population today stands at approximately 50. "From 1985 to 1991, the number of deer shot on the Crane properties declined (elsewhere, the number stayed the same), the body condition of the shot deer improved (elsewhere, the body condition was constant), and the average age of the shot deer declined (elsewhere constant)" (excerpted from a CfA&PP synopsis written by Laura J. MacLean).

William Porter of the Adirondacks Ecological Center warned, "Once a program is embarked upon,

management of deer is a forever proposition unless we are able or willing to take them to extinction." The challenge in managing deer is to continue to reevaluate the current method and balance the interests of the deer with those of people. Is it the best choice for the deer to shoot them when options such as contraception are available for such a habitat?

In each case study presented at the seminar, there was one constant: all of them came into existence at the insistence of homeowners, farmers, or property owners who had suffered losses due to deer. If the people who demand solutions could first adopt tolerance for natural deer behavior or even utilize a means of protecting their property, the guns, darts, and traps might never be needed. There is deer fencing and various repellents available for use in protecting vegetable gardens and ornamental plantings. "Conditioning deer from the beginning is much more effective than trying to stop deer from entering a garden once they have found it,"

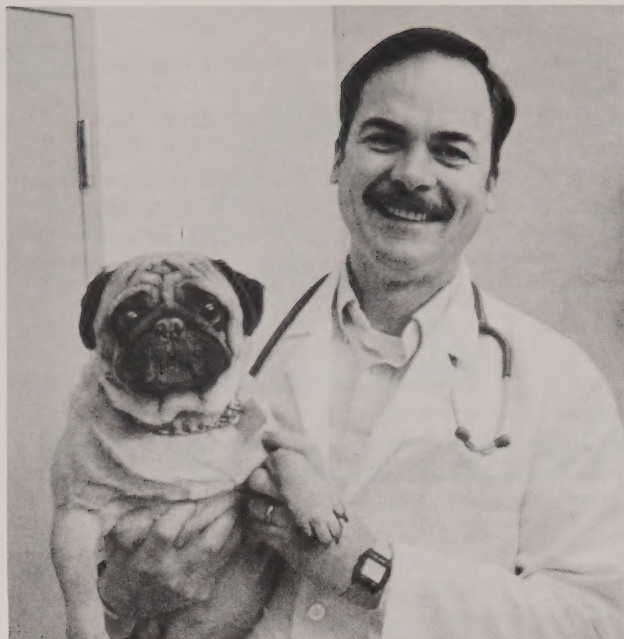
according to a "Fund for Animals" article.

People who feed deer must accept responsibility for their behavior and the potential harm they may bring to the animals they attract. As Jay McAninch explained, "Deer feeders need to understand that their neighbors may be the ones to complain and have 'their' deer shot." How people choose to deal with deer issues will have far-reaching effects as explained by McAninch, "Deer management will be the litmus test on how or if we will be able to live with wildlife."

Dr. Andrew Rowan of the CfA&PP opened and closed the seminar with the same message to all attending: "I would like to express my particular plea to people in this room who have come together because of our interest and concern in animals and the environment. In view of what is happening currently to animals and the environment, we need to work together much more constructively . . . still with our fundamental differences, but together."

Deer increasingly cross paths with people in populated areas.





A Veterinary Update: Parenting Puppies: Nature vs. Nurture

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Why is it that some dogs are friendly, obedient, and generally welcome wherever they go, while others are noisy, unruly, and viewed as neighborhood nuisances from puppyhood onward? Are some dogs just born bad, or is the "bad dog" always a result of poor upbringing?

To understand your dog's behavior, and to do what it takes to ensure that your pet's social skills are up to par, it is helpful to learn a little about the basic behavioral traits of the dog species in general, and your dog's breed, in particular.

Like the wolf, the dog is basically a pack animal. Most dogs fit into families because they react to people as they would react to other members of the pack. The optimal time for socialization of a puppy (the period when a young animal learns to accept the presence of its own and other species) is four to six weeks, with an outside range of three to 12 weeks. Social experience during this time should include the kinds of people and breeds of dogs that the animal will be in contact with in later life.

Behavior problems in adulthood can result from either too much, or too little, human interaction during this crucial socialization period. A puppy that is weaned too early, hand-raised by humans, and isolated from its own kind is likely to develop an overly exclusive attachment to humans (or, more often, a single person). This can lead to increased aggressiveness, or shyness, toward strangers; difficulties in later mating with its own species; and poor mothering of the young if it is bred.

Puppies that have had very little human association up to the age of 12 weeks, on the other hand, tend to form their strongest relationships with other dogs, lack confidence around humans, and may be aggressive, or fear-biters, or overly submissive. With patience and careful training, such dogs may be taught to relate to a few people but the adjustment will be difficult.

Keep in mind that some behaviors that are viewed as undesirable by humans are simply normal behaviors for specific breeds. Adult dogs of certain breeds, for example, like shepherds or dobermans, normally guard the territory

around their homes and attempt to keep out strangers (mailman, paperboy, etc.). Similarly, it is natural for a terrier to dig holes, or for a shepherd or other member of a herding breed to chase joggers. It is the owner's job to set limits and control the behavior rather than try to eliminate what is an instinctive response.

Ideally, a new puppy should be selected at less than six weeks of age, visited frequently, and taken home as soon as it is naturally weaned. While serious obedience training is most effective after a puppy has developed the power of concentration (six to eight months of age), there are many lessons that are best learned early in a dog's life. For example, it is easiest to establish the dominant role of the human at an early age. This is also the time to put a stop to such behavior problems as chewing, digging, urine marking of territory, fighting other dogs, or jumping on people, before they develop into permanent habits that will make the adult dog a nuisance or a danger.

House-training should begin between the ages of seven and eight weeks. Puppies should be given access to acceptable toilet areas after awakening, eating, or being very active. The puppy can be tied on a short leash indoors or confined to a particular room between trips to the yard, and should be supervised closely to prevent its using improper areas. If it will be expected to eliminate outdoors as an adult, it is best to train the puppy to do so from the start, since most dogs do not easily make the transition from paper to grass.

Fundamental obedience training, that is responding to such commands as no, sit, stay, come, and heel, can begin at eight weeks, with hopes of achieving success by 16 weeks of age. A couple of short (10-minute) training sessions a day, using moderate repetition, consistency, praise for good performance given immediately, and firm responses to misbehavior, will produce gratifying results and create a relationship based on mutual trust and affection. If this early training is reinforced by a formal obedience class at six to eight months, you too can be the proud owner of "that dog who is welcome everywhere he goes."



A SUMMER TRADITION

By Marianne Prior



Celebrating its 45th year in operation, the Animal Friends Summer Camp is still going strong. Located on Squeteague Harbor in Cataumet on Cape Cod, the camp seeks to provide a safe, fun, and educational environment where children can learn about kindness and responsibility toward animals and people.

What has kept a camp like this in operation for 45 years and what makes the kids keep wanting to come back summer after summer? For the answer to this I went straight to the source, our campers. I asked the kids why they decided to return to camp. Hannah Zimmerman's comment really stuck in my mind when she told me that she likes camp because "it is a chance to make friends and the counselors are nice!" I certainly can relate to this because I was also a camper here and I met a best friend with whom I am still friends today. We are both now working together at the camp and hoping to make the children enjoy their experience as much as we enjoyed ours. I try my hardest to create an atmosphere for the children like the one I remember experiencing when I came to camp, as do all our staff members. *(continued)*





Animal Friends Summer School

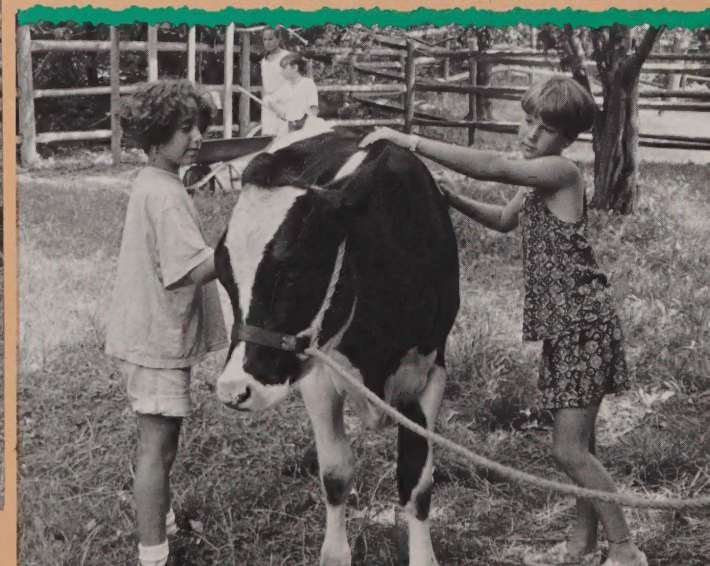
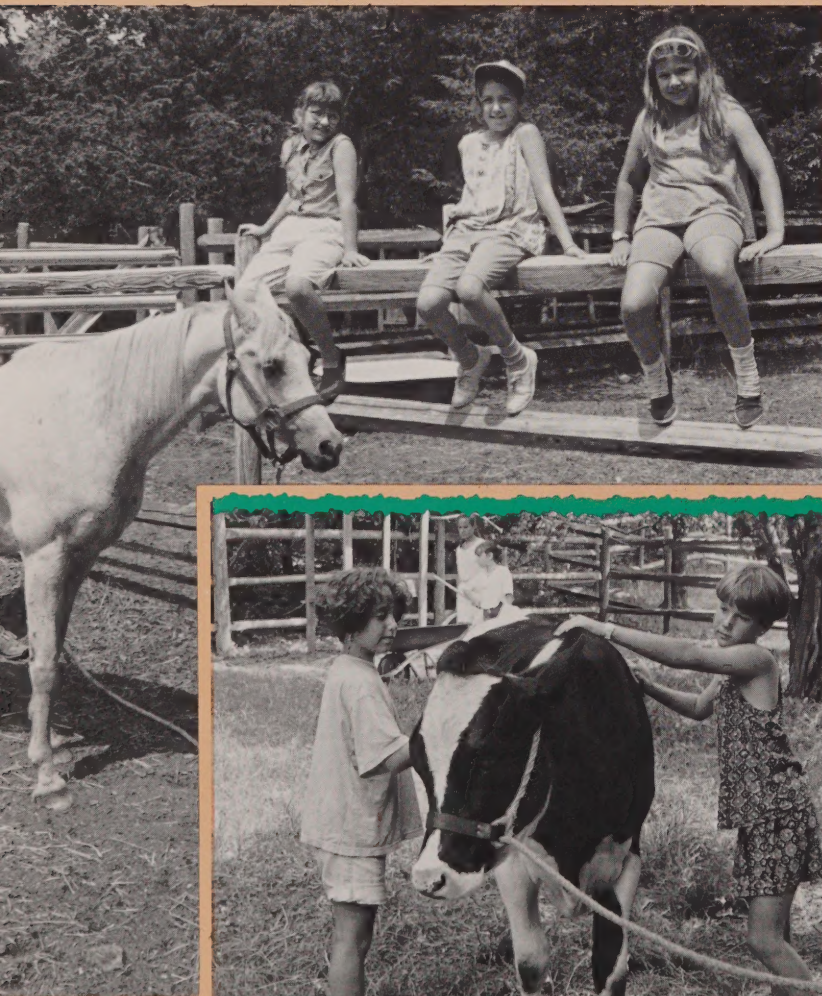
This summer brought a change to camp. We offered an option to come to camp for either a full or a half day for both the younger and older children. This seemed to work out very well for the camp. The full-day schedule brought some changes to camp, but many things remained the same.

Each day camp starts off with flag raising where the children anxiously wait to see if they will be chosen to help lead the flag raising. Once the flag is up, a human choo-choo train is formed and everyone files into Baxendale Hall where song time begins. After testing our morning voices by singing our favorite camp songs, accompanied by the hand motions, the campers are ready to head outside to play an activity which is selected every day by a different counselor. After an energetic period of activity it is time for the campers to go to the class which they have chosen for that week. We offer a variety of classes — some are directly related to animals while others may be craft or adventure classes which relate indirectly to animals.

On our farm, the campers can take either Farm Life or Horse Care class. These classes both teach the proper care of these animals and what owning the animals involves. The campers learn what the animals give to our society and they learn how to care for and correctly treat the animals.

The Ocean Ecology class and the Nature Exploration class each examine wildlife in its natural habitats. The campers learn to respect these creatures and their different

Abby Stone, Ann Castellano, both 9, and Meghan Holcomb, 8, get acquainted with "Jay" the horse, while Brooke Walis, 9, and Ashley Wills, 10, (photo inset) learn how to care for "Beth," the camp cow.



Ricky Hawkins, 8, (above) makes the rounds at feeding time; Elizabeth Klein, 6, (below) learns how much even a little pig weighs!



environments. In the Ocean Ecology class they accomplish this by going on shore walks and by taking out our camp boat to the surrounding islands to study different species. This class is a favorite of the campers because they love to ride the boat. Nature Exploration accomplishes the same goal in a different manner. They get to explore our camp's nature trails and learn about the different wildlife that call these trails home.

The Pet Care class teaches proper care and handling of the pets that the campers are likely to have in their home like dogs, cats, hamsters, birds, etc. The kids learn about the different animals and what it's like to care for each of them. Our last class that deals with animals is a very special class called Pet Therapy which offers campers a chance to leave camp and bring some of our small pets to area nursing homes and show them around to the patients. The elderly look forward to these weekly visits. The young children with the pets seem to really brighten their day and the children learn to socialize with the elderly people so they find that they aren't as different as children may think. We also offer a variety of other classes which help the campers enhance their skills and learn to work well with others in a group. These include Puppetry, Candlemaking, Photography, Copper Tooling, Group Adventures, and Drama.

After class time is over the campers get a chance to release some of their energy during juice and sports break. They have a chance to try a number of different sports as well, ranging from a nice relaxing game of horseshoes or Frisbee to a vigorous and competitive game of basketball or soccer. When I asked the kids what their favorite part of camp was I got many replies that sports was definitely their favorite time!

Once sports is through the children get to relax for a Special Event. During this time an outside guest may come in to talk to the kids or a counselor may talk on a particular subject that he or she enjoys. These talks have included such topics as dog grooming, the dangers of rabies, or even a presentation on the wonders of flying. Whatever the special event is, it is sure to be both educational and entertaining.

We are now at the point in our day where the half-day children either leave or arrive and the full-day children eat lunch. Once that is done we have class time again where the



Farm class is a favorite with Matt Charette, 10, and Christine O'Neil, 9.

children get a chance to take a different class from what they had in the morning and once again juice and sports break follows class. After sports break our final activity begins. It's called Hobby Time and it is a chance for the campers to try an activity they may be interested in learning. This summer we offered animal first aid, dance, macramé, pottery, computers, board games, arts and crafts, fabric painting, fun with cooking, environmental club, team sports, music, and dog obedience — quite a hefty list to choose from which makes it difficult for the kids to decide. Like class time, hobby time also runs for a week and then campers have the opportunity to choose a new activity. Once the bell rings signifying hobby time is over, there is only one thing left to do. Everyone once again gathers around the flag pole and it is time to lower the flag and end another exciting day at camp.

When I look at our day of camp on paper it seems like a lot to do, but the day flies by without a moment to rest. I guess that's how you know you're having a good time. I attended this camp when I was young for nine years and then I began working here and have done this for four years. Obviously I believe in the values on which our camp is built.

The Animal Friends Summer Camp is truly a unique experience. It gives youngsters a place to go and experience different animals in a fun, learning environment. It gives kids a place to meet and make friends in a safe environment where the staff are always willing to help out in any way they can. Anyone who has been lucky enough to attend this camp will tell you how dedicated the people are to making it a pleasurable summer experience. The campers leave with an understanding of how people and animals must coexist and that all animals and people are our friends who must be treated with respect and kindness. If a few more kids each year can learn this from us then we have had a successful summer, and in my eyes every summer turns out to be a huge success!

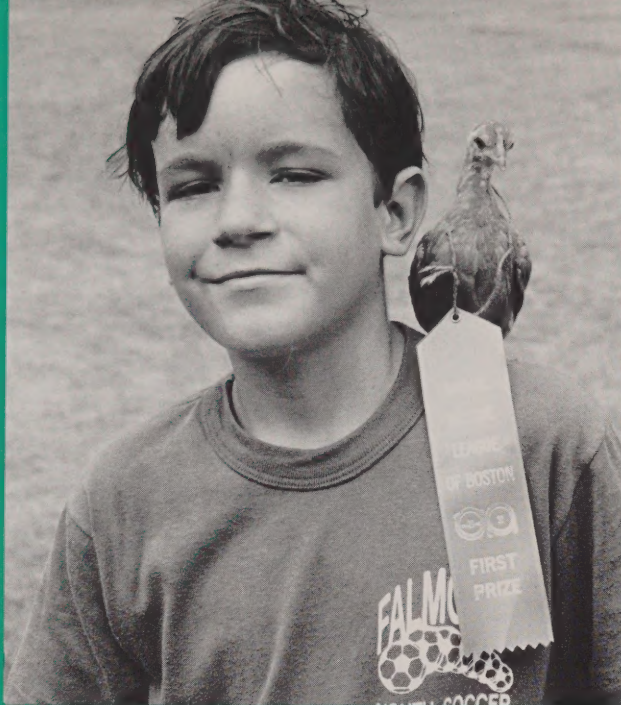
Marianne Prior has been involved with the camp since 1983, both as a camper and a counselor. In 1984 she won the Walter J. Dethloff Award as the outstanding camper for that camp session, and in 1993 she won the Florence E. Buttrick Award for being the counselor of the year.



A straw hat comes in handy as Julia Kaempfer, 9, gathers fresh-laid eggs.



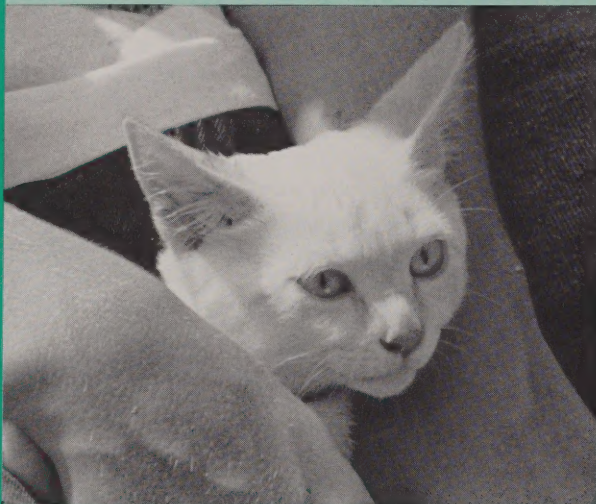
PET SHOW 94



"First in the featherweight division" at the League's annual pet show, July 23, was "Baby," a bantam chick owned by Blake Wells, 9.



"Puppy love" brightens the day for Kevin Jones, 7, and Kara Monahan, 12, whose puppy, "Jessie," won a second-prize red ribbon.



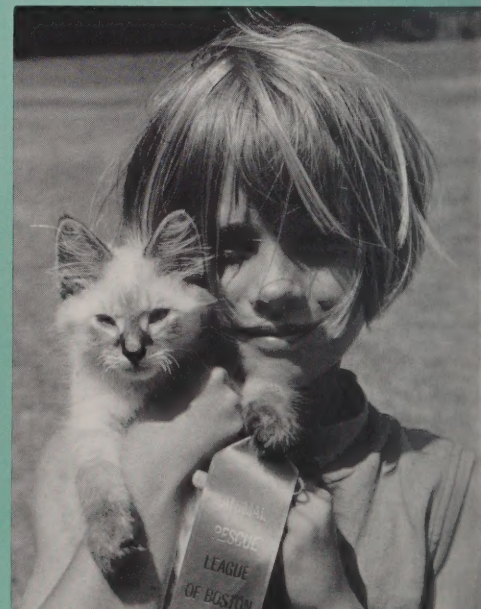
"Do they give points for patience? How about purring?"



"A friendly confrontation" between canine contenders!

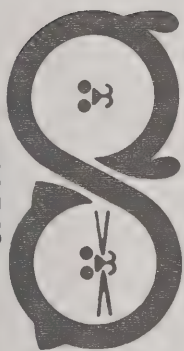


The day kicks off with the "grand parade of pets."



"Smudge" gets a hug from owner Kristen Vanderbilt, 8, after winning first prize in the kitten category.

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"I knew you could do it!" Aaron Stackhouse, 12, congratulates "Jude" who captured first prize in the boy dog and dog obedience categories and went on to win "Best of Show" (see cover photo).



"A prize performance" by "Casey," shown here with owner Jessica Foreman, 7, won a red ribbon in the tail-wagging competition.



Elizabeth Klein, 6, hugs "Friedan," who won first prize in the feline division, and Andrew Crowley, 7, congratulates his springer spaniel, "Larkin," who placed second in the boy dog group.



"Dress for success" was the motto of one canine contestant!



"Fiesta" the goat gets a boost from proud owner Heather Valeri, 5, after winning the blue ribbon in the "miscellaneous pets with four feet" competition.

A NEW BREED OF OFFICER



Adopted at the age of six weeks, "Homer" — now two years old and nearing 900 lbs. — runs to greet Vicki Barnard as she arrives home from work.

Today's animal control officer is far removed from the old-fashioned dogcatcher of cartoons, pictured menacing neighborhood mutts with his net, rounding up animals like a bounty hunter, and callously disposing of them at will.

Though there is still a wide disparity among communities when it comes to the level of funding and facilities made available for stray animal care and control, much progress has been made in the area of animal control. Over the past few years, even in the most rural communities, the professionally trained animal control officer has replaced the "dogcatcher." More than just a change in terminology, the new title reflects a growing appreciation by citizens of the need for experienced, skilled, and well-trained animal care professionals.

The animal control officer of the 90's is more friend than foe to their communities' stray dogs and often cats, putting in extra hours to find homes for them, providing shelter, food and medical care, and often digging into his — or her — own pocket to do so. Increasingly, animal control officers are likely to be women, ladies of the law like Rehoboth's Vicki Barnard, who has turned her own home into an animal sanctuary, and Marshfield's Norma Haskins, who has spearheaded efforts to professionalize the animal

control field in Massachusetts, and was the nation's "Animal Control Officer of the Year" in 1993, chosen for the honor by the National Animal Control Association.

An animal health technician at animal hospitals in Rhode Island and Massachusetts for over twenty years, Vicki Barnard has been animal control officer for Rehoboth for the past eight years and is currently also animal inspector. She shares her house, barn, and 3½ acres of land with three dogs, numerous cats, a miniature pot-bellied pig named "Chester," two full-size pigs (kept with permits) named "Wilbur" and "Homer" who weigh in, respectively, at near 700 and 900 pounds, and a crow with a broken wing that will be released upon recuperation. Wildlife rehabilitation is one more skill that Barnard brings to her job. Each morning she rises at 6 a.m. to feed and care for her "menagerie," many of which were former shelter strays, cruelty victims, or, in the case of "Homer," rescued at the age of six weeks when a local piggery was being closed down. At 8 a.m. she departs for the animal shelter, a converted warehouse adjacent to the town offices, where an average of twenty dogs and eight to ten cats await her care on any given day.

Why does she do it? "It's my life," she answers with enthusiasm. Before her appointment, there was no shelter facility in the town and strays were simply tied to trees on the dog officer's property. She was instrumental in getting the town to turn the warehouse into a shelter facility, and started the adoption program, which is without a doubt the favorite part of her job. "I find that if you keep an animal long enough, eventually the right person will walk through the door," she says with the relish of a born matchmaker.

Rehoboth's cages and outdoor runs are usually full, a fact that Barnard attributes partially to people from urban areas who "dump" their pets on country roads, under the mistaken notion that they can fend for themselves. But she does see some improvement in public

attitudes in recent years. "Spay and neuter efforts are making a difference, especially with dogs. This year I've only picked up two or three puppies — people are really becoming more aware of the need to spay and neuter."

In addition to the training she received as an animal health technician, Barnard is also one of the approximately 300 animal control officers in the state who are graduates of the certification course offered by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts (ACOAM), a program which Norma Haskins, now in her third term as president of ACOAM, was instrumental in founding.

A native of Marshfield, Norma Haskins had worked for a car dealership and in the credit and collections field, when the town of Marshfield created what was then called a dog officer's post, 21 years ago. With a love for animals, and experience breeding Siberian huskies for show, she applied for the job and was hired. Eventually, the position was upgraded to animal control officer, and her responsibilities today include enforcing the town's animal codes, managing the shelter and adoption programs, supervising rabies policies and quarantines, and investigating and prosecuting animal neglect and cruelty cases.

Like many animal control officers, both Barnard and Haskins also serve as their communities' designated animal inspectors, responsible for investigating rabies reports, tracking, capturing, and arranging for the testing of suspected carriers, and quarantining animals suspected of being exposed to the disease. "The rabies epidemic among raccoons has created a staggering burden for animal control officers," according to Haskins. "Some animal control officers are supervising as many as 40-50 home quarantines of dogs and cats with wounds of unknown origin, in addition to their other duties," she notes.

A member of the state Rabies Advisory Board, Norma Haskins has also set up rabies inoculation



Marshfield animal control officer Norma Haskins comforts a young arrival at the town's new animal shelter.

programs for pets, conducts humane education programs for school children, started a fund to spay and neuter pets of low-income families, and led efforts to fund and build Marshfield's new animal shelter which opened in 1991, built with the aid of more than \$50,000 worth of donated money, materials, and labor.

Married and the mother of one grown son, Norma, like Vicki, welcomes the company of animals in her private as well as her professional life. Reciting a list of her pets in an interview with the *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, her husband, Arthur Haskins, said: "Two dogs, a cat, pygmy goats, a pot-bellied pig, two sheep. We also have peacocks, chickens, pheasants, and a partridge — a few of everything!"

On the statewide level, Norma has focused her efforts on professionalizing the field of animal control. A founding member of ACOAM in 1980, she observes: "Until six years ago, there was no formal education program for animal control officers, and no certification process. We've come a long way, but even today there are still towns with no kennel facilities, no equipment, and no trained professionals."

She credits the League's Thomas White, director of criminal investigation and legislative services, with getting the education and certification program off the ground. "He was indispensable," she says.



"Sadie" listens as Rehoboth animal control officer Vicki Barnard plans for her adoption.

White, who had joined ACOAM when he was responsible for the League's animal control program in Brewster, helped the association design a training curriculum, and put them in touch with the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council, which is responsible for the majority of police and law enforcement training in the state. "They were immediately receptive," he recalls, and the first class was offered in 1988.

The 12-day certification course, meeting one day a week, is offered each year at rotating locations around the state. Law enforcement subjects such as criminal investigation, constitutional law, and civil liability are taught by representatives of the Criminal Justice Training Council, while animal-related classes are taught by ACOAM members like Norma Haskins, as well as several members of the League staff.

"We feel the League's main role in the area of animal control is a supportive one, assisting the animal control officer in upgrading his or her personal skills, and acting as a resource to help upgrade the profession," White explains.

"Ideally, we'd like to develop a relationship with animal control officers that encourages them to ask us for assistance if they need it, whether that involves how to handle animals humanely, or how best to successfully prosecute a cruelty case. Our role is not to take charge, but to help guide animal control officers through the process," he feels.

One of the major problems in the animal control field is the lack of state-mandated laws to guarantee consistent quality of care for strays. "While many animal control officers get good support from their towns, others still work long hours, on minimal budgets, with inadequate equipment and substandard

facilities," White notes.

One approach that has been used successfully in other parts of the country, and was put in operation in Hampden County in this state eight years ago, is regionalization of animal control services. A regional dog shelter now serves Springfield, Chicopee, Palmer, and twenty smaller towns in the county. It is staffed by a director, two kennel attendants, and four animal control officers, and equipped with air-conditioned trucks to pick up stray animals.

"We need to find a better system and standardize it throughout the state to eliminate disparities," Thom White concludes. "Regionalization allows several communities to pool their resources to support a single animal shelter facility, with all of their animal control officers working out of a single location. It makes good sense, and it should result in better care for the animals, and a higher degree of professionalism."

League members who would like to do something to help the stray animal population can start right in their own backyards. Find out how your community's animal control program works. Does your town have a shelter? How is it staffed? How is it funded? Is it under the supervision of the police? The board of health? A town manager or board of selectmen? Ask questions, and if you don't like the answers, get involved at a local level to make your community's animal control and care program the best that it can be!



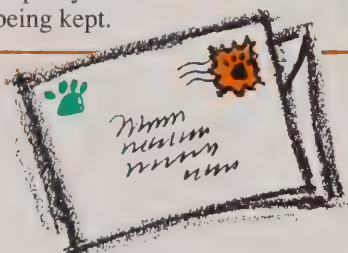
Finding homes for kittens and puppies is the favorite part of the job for Norma Haskins.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

NEGLECTED DOGS GET SECOND CHANCE

League rescue agents transport several neglected dogs to ARL shelters for adoption after 40 animals were removed from an East Brookfield home where they had been kept in inhumane and unsanitary conditions. The League assisted the MSPCA in finding homes for eight of the dogs after the MSPCA took custody of the animals at the request of the Board of Selectmen of East Brookfield. The former owner had failed to comply with an earlier order of removal served at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen after neighbors had complained about the noise, odors, and unsanitary conditions at the property where the animals were being kept.



NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR DEDHAM SHELTER

Effective September 5, the mailing address for the League's Safford Adoption Shelter at Pine Ridge Center in Dedham has been changed from 238 Pine Street to 55 Anna's Place. The change was made necessary by Dedham's introduction of the 911 "Caller Enhanced" emergency system which allows emergency personnel or police to immediately identify the exact location of an emergency caller, but requires that new addresses be added at locations such as Pine Ridge where multiple buildings had shared one street address. A group of employees chose the street name "Anna's Place" in recognition of the fact that the property was the original residence of League founder Anna Harris Smith.

NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

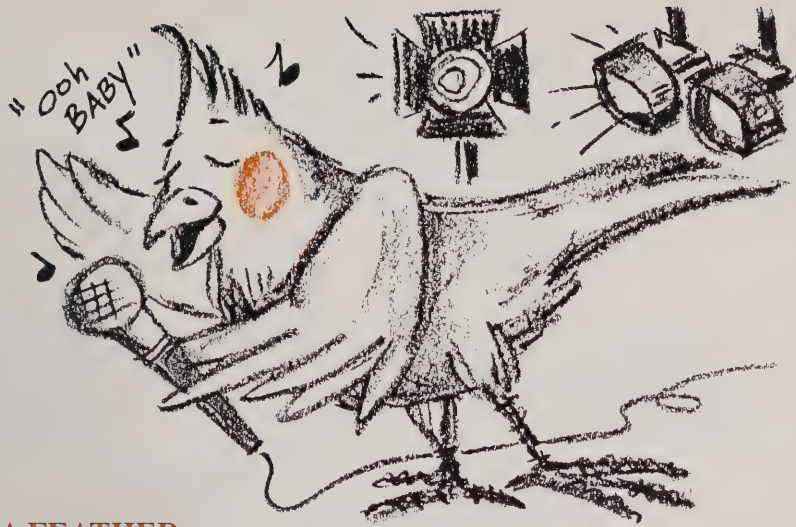
Minnie, by Annie M.G. Schmidt, translated by Lance Salway, illustrated by Kay Sather. A fanciful story about an unusual young woman who once was a cat, *Minnie* is a meditation on the meaning of being human, written from a cat's perspective. Author Annie M.G. Schmidt has won numerous awards, including the Hans Christian Andersen Award for children's books. Milkweed Editions, for ages 8 and up. \$14.95, paperback \$6.95.

Shadow and the Ready Time, by Patty Sheehan, illustrated by Itoka Maeno. Shadow, an orphaned wolf pup in Montana's Glacier National Park, is raised in captivity but learns when she is released in the wild that the pack will not accept her until she can assume pack responsibility for caring for pack pups and hunting for food; and before it is the *ready time* to have her own pups, she must be able to care and provide for them. Advocacy Press, for ages 4-12. \$14.95.

CAPE PHARMACIST SAVES AILING PUPPY

When "Daisy Mae," a three-month-old mixed-breed puppy adopted by the Jones family of South Dennis got sick, an unusual collaboration between a veterinarian and a hospital pharmacist saved her life. Dr. Lawrence Venezia of the Hyannis Animal Hospital was able to treat the animal's infection, but the puppy was unable to keep anything down and was failing from lack of nutrition when Dr. Venezia turned to Cape Cod Hospital pharmacist Peter Scarafale for assistance.

"We came up with an intravenous solution that had amino acid for protein, and fat and dextrose for calories, and multivitamins to sustain the animal," the pharmacist said in an interview with the *Cape Cod Times*. He said that the solution was similar to one he might mix for a human infant, but he had never done such a thing for an animal. Daisy Mae began to improve within 24 hours and was back home with her family in three days.



A FEATHER IN OUR CAP!

(Ed. Note: Following are excerpts from a letter that we'd like to share with our readers.)

Dear Editor:

I have been receiving *Our Fourfooted Friends* for the past year and thoroughly enjoy it, but I have a bone to pick with you, or should I say feather??!

A little over a year ago we adopted a cockatiel named "CC" from the shelter in Salem. He had been left alone for over a week with no food or water, and when his owner arrived home, so the story goes, he was found in a bloody mess, feathers pulled out from most areas of his body, and of course starving. It is beyond my comprehension how someone could do this but, even more amazing, how the people at the Salem shelter managed to bring him back to a functioning state.

With much love and care, Michelle Regan and the staff at the shelter brought him through this

ordeal and we were most fortunate to be able to adopt him . . . CC is the most loving, affectionate, and bright cockatiel you can imagine . . . He says "CC" and "kiss-kiss," but the most wonderful thing that he does is whistle tunes! He picked up a wonderful song from someone while at the shelter, but since then he has learned many lovely songs. His best performance is to mimic the mockingbird's repertoire early morning and evening . . . I have never heard such talent from any bird I have had in the past!

To me, even without his feathers, CC is beautiful . . . I am aware that birds are not the "norm" for the shelters to take in and put up for adoption, but I'd love to see something now and again in your publication about birds.

Just wanted to share my story with you about CC, and the great people you have working at the Salem shelter!!

Sincerely yours,
Irene Langone
Woburn

PROTECTIONS FOR CARRIAGE HORSES NOW IN EFFECT

New regulations governing the care and operation of carriage horses in the Commonwealth went into effect this past spring, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety. League law enforcement officers are empowered to dispense notices of violation of the law, and inspect to ensure compliance with all of its terms, which include licensing of carriages and drivers, humane care of the horses, safety equipment and practices, and prohibitions against carriage horse operations during adverse weather conditions, including either extreme cold or snow, or extreme heat and humidity.

MOM STILL CARES FOR FAMILY PETS

According to a survey of 1,100 pet owners conducted by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), the burden of caring for the family pets still falls largely on the mother in the household. Sixty-six percent of the respondents said the female head of the household was responsible for taking care of the pets. Male heads of household came in a distant second at 19 percent, and the well-intentioned children who often promised to take care of the animals were the primary caregivers in only 7 percent of the households surveyed. Only 5 percent of the caregivers were under the age of 20, while 67 percent were between the ages of 30 to 64 years old.

LEAGUE PRESIDENT CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Staff members gather to honor League president Arthur G. Slade on the occasion of his thirtieth year of service to the League. Arthur Slade joined the staff in 1964 as director of operations and became president in 1977. At the surprise anniversary gathering, the staff presented him with a combination clock and barometer/thermometer, bearing a brass plaque that read: "With this award we wish to extend to you our sincere appreciation for thirty years of distinguished service."



Doing What Comes Naturally!

As Emily walked down the sidewalk toward her house, she zipped her coat up and kicked at the leaves that had fallen from the oak trees which lined the street. Suddenly, Emily stopped to watch a chipmunk stuff his cheeks with acorns and seeds. Once the chipmunk finished filling his pouches he went on his merry way and so did Emily. When Emily got home, she told her mother about the chipmunk and asked, "Why did the chipmunk fill his mouth with acorns, but not eat them?" Emily's mother replied, "He's gathering his food supply for his winter rest." "Animals take a winter rest?" asked Emily. "Yes, some animals take a winter rest, while others hibernate," said Emily's mother. "Why don't we go to the Nature Museum and find out which animals hibernate," suggested Emily's mother.

That's where the rest of the afternoon was spent, and what an exciting afternoon it was. Read on to discover what Emily learned.

First, Emily looked up the definition of hibernation which read: a state of inactivity in which some animals pass the winter. In other words, hibernation is a deep sleep. The woodchuck is one of the few animals that truly hibernate. Some animals such as chipmunks, opossums, bears, and skunks don't hibernate, but have a light sleep or winter rest. These animals awaken when there are warm days during the cold winter months.

During both hibernation and winter rest the animal's heartbeat, breathing, and body temperature are reduced. This lets the animal sleep without burning too much energy. Skunks, bears, and opossums actually overeat and get very fat in



the fall, then use that fat as energy during their winter rest. If it is warmer weather it would not be unusual to see these animals out looking for food. Chipmunks, on the other hand, collect food and fill their homes with it, so when they need energy, they eat.

Emily's curiosity did not stop with hibernating animals -- she had to find out what other animals do during the winter months. She read about animals that stay active all winter long, such as the fox, deer, and rabbits. These animals grow thick, warm coats of fur to protect them from the winter weather. The coat allows them to be out in the weather to search for food.



Foxes enjoy the cold winter months. They sleep outside, even in subzero weather, and use their den mainly for a hiding place. Red foxes are friendly to other animals. They have been known to play with dogs and live in burrows with woodchucks. They feed on small animals, birds, nuts, and berries. They also bury extra food or cover it up so they can eat it later.

The deer's fur actually changes color for the winter. They lose their pretty red summer coat, which blends with the bushes, and gain a thick, warm gray coat that combines with gray days and leafless trees. They live outside in groups around thick patches of sheltered trees. When they search

for food, they trample over the snow to make pathways which make it easier for them to travel. In the early winter, deer eat old fruits, nuts, and corn. Later, when the snow falls, and there isn't much food for them to eat, the deer nibble on twigs, small branches, and bark from bushes and trees.

When it snows, rabbits stay under shelter for a couple of days. It's hard for them to hop in new snow, because they sink. However, when the snow hardens, it actually helps them. One way it helps is by allowing them to reach higher branches than they could before for food. It also allows them to avoid being caught by larger animals that are heavier and still sink in the deep snow. Rabbits spend a lot of time hiding from predators. This is why rabbits come out at night to search for food. They eat weeds, evergreen needles, and twigs.

Emily had fun learning about the different ways in which animals survive the winter. She learned that bears don't truly hibernate. They rest for most of the winter but still come out to look for food periodically. She was surprised to find that the woodchuck is one of the few animals that truly hibernate for the winter. The most interesting facts Emily learned were about the animals that are active during the winter months. She was especially interested in how these animals survive the severe cold weather. Emily and her mother collected all her information and headed home. She anxiously awaited the first snow in hopes of seeing some of the animals she read about.



PETS IN THE PICTURE



1 "Indoors, 'Drusus' loves sleeping on the furniture as you can see, but outdoors he's full of energy," according to Peg Kelly who adopted this former stray from the League's Boston shelter more than five years ago. "He loves going for long walks, and invariably finds interesting smells to track in the woods, marshes, and along the beach . . . he has brought many hours of pleasure to me, my family, and friends!"

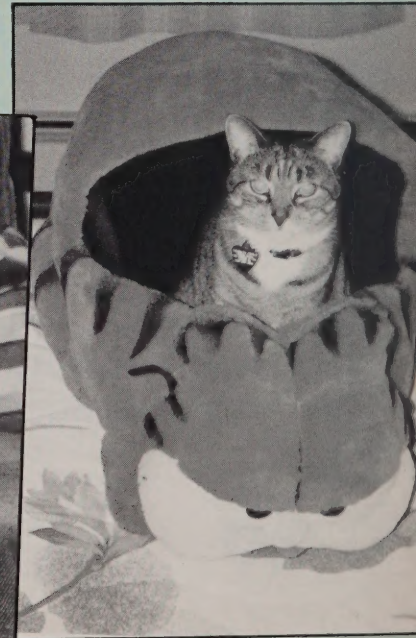
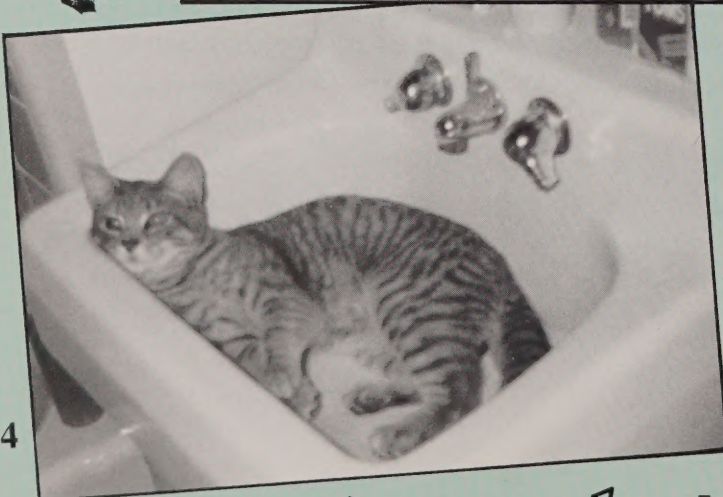
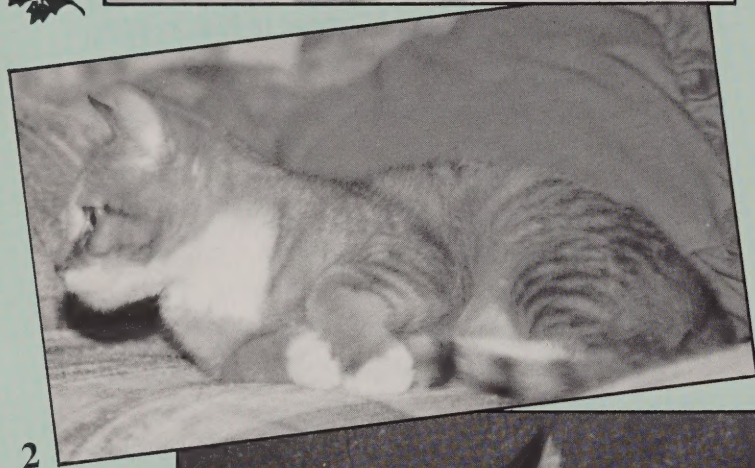
2 "This used to be my couch . . . not anymore, as you can see," writes Kevin Fitzgerald of Quincy who adopted "Buzzy" this past spring. "When I worked the second shift for awhile, I missed the Bruins games, so Buzzy and I would watch the replays together on NESN the following morning. He is definitely being spoiled rotten!"

3 "Jessie," 14, is the center of attention and affection at the Quincy home of James Scott, who writes: "All she wants in her life is love, food, shelter, love, being brushed, love, being combed, and love. I have taken over 2,000 pictures of Jessie, because I love her!"

4 "Mr. 'Thomas Fuzzmuffin' loves to sit in the sink on a hot day," according to Rick and Kassia Reynard of Medford, who adopted their new housemate this summer from the Boston shelter. They describe him as "quite affectionate and a bit rambunctious (like any kitten his age). He seems very content, and we love him."

5 Here's "Homey," Ashok, Rosie, and Sajed Kamal's rabbit, adopted in the fall of 1992 from the Boston shelter. "He's a frisky little guy who chews on whatever he can get his teeth into, although he also greets us when we enter the room, hops and plays with us, and brings us much joy. Thank you for the good work you do, and for Homey," they write.

6 This is "Pebbles" Doyle of Acton, adopted 12 years ago ("July 2, 1982, to be exact") by Susan Doyle who writes: "She has been my best friend ever since that day. She still plays like a kitten, and enjoys all of her 'special' sleeping areas. Many thanks to all of you from all of us, and keep up the great work!"



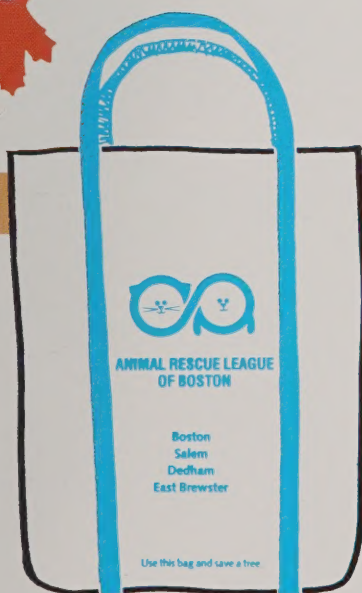
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Photo by Bob Howard.



LAST ROWS OF SUMMER — Lawrence Duane, 8, of Wellesley and his puppy "MacIntosh" enjoy Indian summer on Cape Cod.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED